

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SCI-06 FEA-02 AEC-11 EA-11

DRC-01 /178 W

----- 126748

R 221600Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4927

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS ROME 7036

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, IN, IT

SUBJ: ITALIAN REACTION TO INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST

REF.: ROME 6918

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ITALIAN BROADCAST AND PRINT MEDIA HAVE GIVEN MODERATE COVERAGE TO INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST ALTHOUGH INTEREST IN SUBJECT IS WANING FAST. THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMENT FROM ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ON TEST. END SUMMARY.

2. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED RADIO AND TV COVERED TEST FACTUALLY IN ALL NEWSCASTS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TEST ANNOUNCEMENT. IN ADDITION, TV FEATURED FILM CLIP SHOWING INDIAN ENGINEERS WORKING IN NUCLEAR LABS AND LISTED COUNTRIES (CANADA, USSR, FRANCE) WHICH SUPPORTED INDIAN ATOMIC EFFORT.

3. ITALIAN PRESS, IN ADDITION TO FACTUAL REPORTING AND CITATION OF INTERNATIONAL REACTION TO TEST, FOCUSSED ON POLITICAL ASPECTS. RESPECTED CORRIERE DELLA SERA COMMENTED THAT WHILE INDIAN TECHNIQUE HAD BEEN USED IN US AND SOVIET UNION FOR INDUSTRIAL USE, INDIA NOT NPT SIGNATORY THUS SUGGESTING THAT TEST MAY HAVE WIDER POLITICAL SCOPE. CORRIERE ALSO NOTES THAT TEST MAY CAUSE

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CHINA TO RECONSIDER ASIAN POLICY, PARTICULARLY AS SOVIET INFLUENCE

IN INDIA SEEMED TO BE INCREASING. OTHER THEMES STRESSED BY
PRESS WERE DISPROPORTION BETWEEN EXPENSIVE NUCLEAR UNDERTAKING
AND POVERTY OF COUNTRY AND CONTRAST BETWEEN INDIAN AVOWED
POLICY OF NONVIOLENCE AND AGGRESSIVE ACT REPRESENTED BY TEST.
IN ADDITION, MOST PAPERS ALLUDE TO PROBABILITY THAT ASIAN
BALANCE OF POWER GRAVELY AFFECTED.VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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